(i) To assess in consultation with State Governments, the future development of existing and new Minor Ports by the respective Maritime States either directly or through captive users and private participation.

(ii) To consider the adequacy of existing legal framework and statutory/ legal clearances required for such development and recommend any changes/amedments required to provide conducive legal regime for such development.

(iii) To consider formulation of a Master Plan/Perspective Plan for development of minor ports in the country.

(iv) To monitor the development of minor ports, captive ports and private ports in the Maritime States with a view to ensure their integrated developoment with Major Ports.

(v) To assess the requirements of other infrastructure requirements like roads/ rail/IWT and make suitable recommendations to the concerned Ministries.

The Committee would meet atleast once in six months and recommendations would be advisory.

The Committee may co-opt the services of any officer/expert as it deems fit.

Sale of Additional land by NTC Mills in Maharashtra

1685. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had discussions with Maharashtra State Government officials in early June, 1996, regarding sale of additional land owned by the sick mills of NTC in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details of the discussions; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for rehabilitation of the Mill workers of these Mills who have lost their jobs as a result of retrenchment or closure of the mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) In a meeting held by the Hon'ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha on 15th May 1997, it was decided that a committee would meet the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to press the matter regarding clearance of the State Government for sale of surplus land of NTC mills located in Maharashtra. The Committee consisted of Minister of Textiles and four Members of Parliament namely Shri Ram Naik, Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi and Shri Basu Dev Acharya. Discussions were held by the Committee Members with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra on 7.6.97 and it was impressed upon him the urgency for granting clearance for sale of land. Subsequently a meeting was held between Secretary (Textiles), Government of India and Chief Secretary, Govt. of Maharashtra. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra assured that his Government would take a decision at the earliest. However, the clearance of the State Government is still awaited.

(c) Excepting Ajudhia Textile Mills of NTC (DP&R) Ltd., there has been no closure of any NTC mill in the country leading to retrenchment of employees. The Ajudhia Textile Mill situated in Delhi was closed and enhanced compensation paid to its employees as per the orders of Supreme Court.

Wool Production in Punjab

1686. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the share of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in the country's total wool production;

(b) the details of the performance of Punjab's woollen industry during the last three years;

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the production of woollen industry in the State;

(d) the details of the assistance being provided by the Government during the last three years; and